

"3. *Glycerine* markedly increased thirst and the amount of urine; lowered density of urine, but total amount of sugar greatly increased.

"4. *Chloroform*.—This was exhibited by inhalation, which was repeated every two hours during the experiment. Quantity of urine greatly increased; its density lowered, but total amount of sugar in twenty-four hours increased. Chloroform increases sugar simply by acting as a diuretic.

"5. *Sulphuric and Chloric Elmers*.—Both these agents operate as chloroform, but in a much less marked degree.

"6. *Strychnia*.—The experiments with this powerful agent were begun by administering $\frac{1}{16}$ th of a grain thrice daily, and the dose progressively increased until its physiological action on the nervous system became incipiently apparent.

"The result was a progressive and commensurate decrease in the amount of urine and sugar. The patients' diet during the course of this and the other trials of remedies was uniform. The patients' general health was good, and they gained weight."—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Feb. 14, 1863.

30. *Diabetes*.—Dr. MÜLLER, of Hanover, read a paper before the Congress of German Naturalists and Physicians at their last meeting, on diabetes, with details of thirty-one cases observed by him: twenty-three of the patients were men, and only eight women. Amongst the causes, masturbation was most frequent. Twelve of the patients died, nine of them rapidly, of tubercular disease, and three of Bright's disease. As regards the treatment, animal food and gluten had proved very unsatisfactory, and a mixed diet was far preferable. Tannin, either alone, or with aloe and rheum, gave good results, and small doses of opium at night were advisable. The use of the thermal springs of Carlsbad produced amelioration in every one of the cases; but the benefit was not permanent: in one case it lasted for nineteen months, in another for ten months. The largest quantity of urine observed amounted to nineteen and a half quarts, the largest quantity of sugar to ten per cent.; the highest specific gravity was 1.058. In five cases there was amblyopia and morbus Brightii. An animated discussion followed the reading of this paper, and several of the Carlsbad physicians communicated their experience on the use of the waters of this place. Professor Seegen said that he had treated more than forty cases of diabetes with Carlsbad water, that there had been a diminished amount of urine and sugar, and the weight of the body had become augmented, but a complete cure had never been effected. Most of the patients in question used the Carlsbad treatment for several years successively, and each time with benefit. The improvement was generally rapid, and lasted for a considerable time. Dr. Fleckles said that, if diabetes was complicated with anaemia, the use of Franzensbad, Pyrmont, or Spa, was advisable after a course of the Carlsbad treatment.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Dec. 13, 1862.

31. *Action of Sesquichloride of Iron on Phthisis*.—Dr. RICHARD PAYNE CORTON administered the sesquichloride of iron in twenty-five cases of uncomplicated phthisis furnished by his own wards in the Consumption Hospital. Of this number, eight were males, and seventeen females. Eleven were in the first, four in the second, and ten in the third stage of the disease. None of the cases presented any very remarkable feature, all of them being examples of the ordinary run of patients affected with chronic consumption, care having been taken to exclude those in whom there existed either any special complication or secondary affection which demanded a different treatment.

The dose consisted of ten or fifteen minims of the *tinctura ferri sesquichloridi* administered in water two or three times a day, and was continued for periods varying from three weeks to four months. Cod-liver oil was also taken sometimes by a few of the patients; but, as a general rule, this substance was avoided, at least temporarily, with the view of not complicating the result.

Twelve patients improved greatly, five improved slightly, and eight experienced no relief whilst under treatment. Ten of the seventeen more or less improved cases did not take any cod-liver oil; but, by subsequent observations, it

was sufficiently evident that the greatest good was brought about by the combined influence of these two substances.

Were I to be asked from which of the ten medicinal agents already experimented upon, I had observed the most benefit, I should unhesitatingly fix upon the sesquichloride of iron. For some years, indeed, I have been in the habit of using this substance extensively, both in private and hospital practice, and some of the most happy results I have met with in the treatment of phthisis have certainly taken place during its administration. In no instance have I seen any reason to connect with its use the occurrence either of haemoptysis, or any other active symptom. In passive haemoptysis, indeed, I have often found it a very useful remedy; whilst it often helps to check excessive secretion, whether from the skin or the mucous surfaces.

The following are Dr. Cotton's conclusions, derived from his experience, as to the effects of iron upon phthisis:—

“1. That iron is a very valuable remedy in consumption—perhaps more valuable than any other with which we are at present acquainted.

“2. That of the numerous preparations of iron, the sesquichloride is the best, its astringent nature being generally well suited to many symptoms of the consumptive patient.”—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Jan. 24, 1863.

32. *Use of the Alkaline Lactates and of Pepsin in Indigestion.*—Dr. PÉTREQUIN, of Lyons, advises the employment of the alkaline lactates, and especially those of soda and magnesia, in the treatment of the functional disorders of the digestive canal. He was induced to try these salts in the treatment of dyspepsia, because they are natural to the digestive tube, and the alkaline compound which results from their use is an integral part of the chemical elements of digestion. Practical investigations have confirmed these theoretical views, and an experience of twelve years has convinced Dr. Pétrequin that the use of the alkaline lactates promotes the flow of the digestive juices, regulates their secretion, renders the digestive function normal, and restores the languid or perverted action of the stomach and intestine by enabling them to produce regularly the liquids necessary for the digestive process. The *lactate of soda* is very soluble in water, and crystallizes only with difficulty, and as it is very deliquescent it is prepared with sugar, which enables it to be preserved. The *lactate of magnesia* has been obtained in silky masses, which are very light, very white, and composed of very slender crystals; it is unalterable in the air, of sparing solubility, and without smell or taste. Dr. Pétrequin employs the alkaline lactates in the disorders occurring in any of the three principal phases of digestion—namely, the buccal, the stomachal, or the intestinal. In the first, the disorder may depend either on the alteration of the saliva, which may become acid, or on the diminution of the secretion of this fluid. In both cases the patient should take, before meals, two or three pastilles, which should be slowly melted in the mouth, and the same should be done after meals. The disorders which correspond to the stomachal or gastric phase of dyspepsia are more numerous, and require some modifications in the use and administration of the medicine. In the acid dyspepsia, Dr. Pétrequin advises a combination of lactate of magnesia and of lactate of soda with sugar; and in what he calls neutral dyspepsia, which he attributes to deficiency of the gastric juice, he combines pepsin with the powders or pastilles. During intestinal digestion, the alkaline lactates may still be advantageously employed, although the functional lesions of the intestine are generally less easily accessible to our remedies than those of the stomach. “We know,” says Dr. Pétrequin, “that magnesia produces excellent results in the diarrhoea of children at the breast, and the alkaline lactates are no less efficacious. I have also observed their curative powers in the diarrhoea which supervenes in convalescent patients, when they resume the use of food, and when their stomach is still weakened. I have also several times employed them successfully in the diarrhoea of persons who were enervated by excessive fatigue; and I have observed the same results in enteralgia, enteric flatulence, and the purging which is symptomatic of intestinal indigestion.”—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chirurg. Rev.*, Jan. 1863, from *L'Union Médicale*, Aug. 21, 1862.